

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 FS-01 ABF-01 AGR-20 CIAE-00

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INR-11 INT-08 LOC-01 NASA-04 NSAE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01

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FOR SCI/SA BEAUBIEN

FOR M/FRM WHITNER

FOR NEA/AFN MACK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, TECH, TS

SUBJECT: SFCP: FY 1975 RESEARCH PROGRAM FINANCED BY

U.S.-OWNED SURPLUS DINARS

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT
ON PENDING FY 1975 BUDGET FOR USE OF SURPLUS U.S.-OWNED
DINARS TO FINANCE SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY RESEARCH
PROGRAM (SFCP) IN TUNISIA. EMBASSY SUPPORTS CONTINUATION OF
PROGRAM AND BELIEVES THAT MOST OF SFCP PROJECTS HAVE
BEEN OF VALUE TO U.S. AS WELL AS TO TUNISIA. HOWEVER,
GOT IS GIVING INCREASING ATTENTION TO U.S.-OWNED LOCAL
CURRENCY WHOSE USE HAS ASSUMED INCREASING RELATIVE
IMPORTANCE IN TOTAL U.S. ACTIVITY IN TUNISIA AS AID
LEVELS HAVE DECREASED. IN ADDITION TO CREATING
INCREASING DIFFICULTIES IN APPROVING SFC PROJECTS
AND INSISTING ON "MODEL AGREEMENT" COVERING ALL SUCH

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PROJECTS, GOT HAS RECENTY REPEATED DEMANDS THAT USG
USE ITS SURPLUS DINARS TO SUBSIDIZE SOME TUNISIAN

"DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAMS OR FINANCE SPECIAL PROJECTS. WHILE, AT SAME TIME, GOT OFFICIAL HAVE INDICATED THEIR APPRECIATION OF PAST SFCP PROJECTS, WE BELIEVE CONTINUED TUNISIAN SUPPORT OF PROGRAM AND COOPERATION IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION NECESSITATE THAT PROJECTS RESPOND TO TUNISIAN NEEDS AS WELL AS USG RESEARCH OBJECTIVES. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS AS WE SEEK TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM AND TO OVERCOME POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF TERMINATION OF SMITHSONIAN'S MEDITERRANEAN MARINE SORTING CENTER.

2. IN REGARD TO ONE PROPOSED PROJECT FOR FY 75, GOT HAS GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVE GEOTECHNICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM TO BE FINANCED BY GRANT FROM NSF (TUNIS 5338). THIS PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PECULIAR SOIL CONDITIONS IN TUNISIA WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD ASSIST TUNISIA, U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR SOIL CONDITIONS IN COPING WITH SERIUOS ENGINEERING PROBLEMS. THIS RESEARCH PROJECT IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING (ENIT) AND WOULD STAND IN STRONG CONTRAST TO CONSIDERABLE AID BEING PROVIDED ENIT BY USSR. WHILE EMBASSY SUPPORTS THIS PROJECT, IT WITHHOLDS JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHER PROPOSED SFCP PROJECTS UNTIL IT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW ENTIRE BUDGET FOR CURRENT YEAR.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD PROPOSED SFCP BUDGET FOR TUNIS FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND PROPOSED NEW PRUJECTS BY SPONSORING AGENCIES SHOWING FUNDS INVOLVED.

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